A Prayer to God,

Which the Christian Soul may make every day, thereby to declare the Sentiments which she desires to have at the point of Death. Wherein are discover'd the Acts of all the highest Virtues, and especially the Divine Virtue of Contrition, and a perfect Love of God.

O My Lord, and my God, in that uncertainty in which thou art pleased that I should live, as well in relation to the time and place, as manner of my Death, I come to adore the Orders of

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thy Divine Providence, for what thou haſt appointed from all Eternity; and not knowing what the Sentiments of my Soul may be at that Hour, I do at preſent, that which I deſire ſhould be done then, and I humbly pray thee to accept and ratifie againſt that time, what I declare and proteſt at preſent.

I give thee thanks, O my Lord, and my God, at this Inſtant, inſtead of the laſt moment of my Life, when poſſibly being deprived both of Speech and Reaſon, I may not be able either to ſpeak or think of thee. I thank thee, Firſt, for giving me a Birth, and that I was not left without a Being. Secondly, That thou wert pleaſed that I ſhould be Born in a Place among Chriſtians and in a time when the Light of the Goſpel is ſhining upon us, where as thou mightſt have cauſed my Nativity to have happened in an Age of darkneſs, and in a Country of Infidels. 3dly. That thou haſt regenerated me by Baptiſm, when thou mightſt let me have died in my Mothers Womb, as ſo many others have, before they could receive it.

I adore thee, O my God, as the Original of my Life in Nature, as the Original of my Generation by Grace, as the last end of my Soul, and as my last Felicity in Glory! Thou art the first Verity, and I firmly believe what thou hast said: Thou are the Sovereign Fidelity, and I incessantly hope what thou hast promised: Thou art the Supreme Goodness, and I love only, and would love only that which thou art.

'Tis thou, O my God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, One in Essence, and Three in Persons, who hast Created me by the Effect of thy Power, who hast Redeemed me by the Excess of thy Bounty, who hast Sanctifyed me by the Infusion of thy Grace, who hast guided me by the Conduct of thy Providence, and who hast Ordained me to the participation of thy Glory.

For this end thou hast admitted me into the Bosome of the Church thy Spouse, there thou hast illuminated my Soul with thy purest Lights, there thou hast upheld me with thy most Holy Graces, there thou hast touched me with

thy moſt tender Motions, there thou haſt prepared for me thy moſt Venerable Sacraments, there thou haſt Fed me with the Sacred Body of *Jeſus Chriſt*, thy only Son my Saviour, and there thou haſt as often ſhowr'd down upon my Soul the Gifts and Graces, of thy Divine Spirit.

O what Love! O what Benefactions! O what Condeſcentions! O what Favour! O what Graces! O what Mercies have been vouchſafed to this poor Soul! That in return for ſo many Bleſſings, (of which thou only knoweſt the number and the value) hath during the whole Courſe of its Life performed nothing but Impieties, Infidelities, Ingratitude, Iniquities and Crimes ſurpaſſing in Number the Hairs of my Head, and Days of my Life.

But, O my Lord God, the more ſhame belongs to me for having offended, the more Glory is due to thee for pardoning my Offences: And Sins without number, like mine, require a Mercy without end, like thine.

And

And to such an Inexhaustible Mercy I approach, repenting for having so long offended thee, My Lord and my God, so lately known thee, and so little loved thee.

Were I never to enjoy more time then this moment, I would imploy it all in the Love of thee, O Sovereign Goodness! Because thou art what thou art, and because thou only dost merit the Love and Adoration of all thy Creatures.

'Tis for thy sake alone, O eternal Love, who art ever Lovely, and never sufficiently beloved, that I detest all the Sins of my Life; because they are contrary to thy adorable Sanctity. And I detest these Sins on the same motive that my Lord *Jesus Christ* detested them at his Agony in the Garden, and on the same Motive, on which thou, O my God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, One in Essence, and Three in Persons, doest detest them. And I humbly offer in Reparation of that Outrage and displeasure, which mine Iniquities have done thee, the Love and Obedience of my

Blessed

Bleſſed Saviour *Jeſus Chriſt* to atone for, and fupply the defects of mine.

In expiation of theſe Iniquities of my Life, I accept of Death, as a Traytor whom thou haſt moſt juſtly Condemned to die; I accept the Deſtruction of this Body which has been the Foundation of ſo many Intemperances, and the Subject of ſo many Sins; I accept of the Deſtruction of my whole Being in Homage to that Soveraign Dominion which thou haſt over me; I accept of all Derelictions, all Bitterneſs of Spirit, all Anguiſhes, all Pains, all Temptations, and all Evils, (except only that of Sin and thy diſpleaſure) as all the ſatisfaction which I can pay thy Adorable Majeſty.

Not being able to do more, I beſeech thee, O my Lord, and my God, to remember that I am the Work of thy Hands the Purchaſe of thy Blood, the Conqueſt of thy Croſs, the Wages of thy Death, and the effect of thy Love. To thy Death I Unite mine, and to thy Love I Unite mine; proteſting that I admit no ſentiments

but thoſe which are agreeable to the Faith of the Catholick Church, and I diſclaim, O Lord, all hopes and dependance, but in thy Merits, Love and Goodneſs.

If ever any thing appears in my Actions contrary to this, I diſavow it, I renounce it. And I deſire that the laſt Motion of my heart may be a Motion of Adoration to do thee Homage for my Being, ſince that very being belongs more to thee than to my ſelf; O Father of Mercies and God of all Comforts, under whoſe Command are all the Powers of my Soul, make my Life to expire in an Act of Love, raiſed by a clear apprehenſion of thy Excellency and Goodneſs, and ſo vigorouſly exerted towards thee, the great and proper Object of Love, that being begun here it may continue to all Eternity.

It is true, O my God, that after all this my Fears are great, becauſe my Crimes are ſo, and thy Judgments very terrible. But it is alſo true that notwithſtanding all thoſe Fears, yet my hope is ſtill greater, ſince thou art Merciful

ciful and apt to pardon; thy Mercy is transcendently Great, and thou dost Pardon without measure; thy Mercy is Infinite, and thou dost Pardon without end; thou art all Mercy, and Mercy it self, and thou Pardonest all.

Full of this ravishing and most sweet Confidence which I have in thee, I hope to see thy Blessings in the Land of the Living, where thou art the Resurrection and the Life; and Adoring again thy Power that Created me, thy Goodness that Redeemed me, thy Wisdom which hath enlightned me, thy Providence which hath Governed me, thy Mercy which hath forgiven me so many Sins. I Adore also thy Justice, and I submit my self intirely to the time by thee appointed for my Judgment, with this Confidence and Trust, that thy Divine Goodness will not then cast me off, but will it self answer for me to thy Justice, and that I shall eternally sing of, and Celebrate, thy Mercies, World without end. *Amen.*

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